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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USAID develops Primary 4 instructional materials to support new curriculum

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KIGALI, RWANDA—The Ministry of Education's new national curriculum is designed to teach students vital skills, such as literacy and critical thinking, which can be applied in their daily lives. The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Literacy, Language, and Learning Initiative (L3), in partnership with the Rwanda Education Board (REB), has developed instructional materials to implement the new curriculum for Primary 4 English and mathematics.

At the beginning of the 2016 academic year, 400,000 books produced by USAID's L3 Initiative were distributed to 2,478 public and government aided primary schools. The English materials include detailed teacher guides, story collections for teachers to read aloud to pupils, textbooks with stories and activities, and interactive audio programs that may be played on cell phones with portable speakers. The mathematics materials include a detailed teacher guide with examples of activities, games, and chants that teachers can use to engage students and develop problem solving skills.

"These materials complement the new curriculum to support effective teaching and child-centred learning in primary schools, contributing to quality education in Rwanda," said Dr. Joyce Musabe, head of REB's curriculum department. "All education stakeholders—district and sector education officers, teachers and head teachers, parents and others—should be supportive of this new and exciting shift in Rwandan education."

To date, the L3 Initiative has distributed more than 7 million teacher guides, story collections, and reading books as well as 14,000 mobile phones loaded with audio lessons for Primary 1 to 3 to public and government aided schools nationwide.

"Literacy is the foundation of learning and future prosperity, which is why USAID is investing in the development of quality materials like these, which are not only full of rich content, but also include new instructional methods that are exciting for both teachers and students," said Marcia Musisi-Nkambwe, Deputy Mission Director of USAID/Rwanda.

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The Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative aims to strengthen teaching and learning so that children leave primary school with solid literacy and numeracy skills. L3 is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Education Development Center (EDC) in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education's Rwanda Education Board. Visit <http://l3.edc.org/>